

House Bill 631

By: Representative Kelley of the 16<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, so as to prohibit a  
3 corporation licensed to transact accident and health insurance business in this state from  
4 providing health insurance benefits if it has been out of network with any critical access  
5 hospital in the previous 12 months; to provide a definition; to provide for related matters; to  
6 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 18 of Title 45 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
10 relating to the state employees' health insurance plan, is amended by adding a new Code  
11 section to read as follows:

12 "45-18-6.1.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'critical access hospital' means a hospital in this  
14 state that meets the requirements of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid  
15 Services to be designated as a critical access hospital and that is recognized by the  
16 department as a critical access hospital for purposes of Medicaid.

17 (b) A corporation licensed to transact accident and health insurance business in this state  
18 that has been out of network with any critical access hospital for the previous 12 months  
19 shall not be eligible to submit a proposal or enter into a contract with the board to provide  
20 benefits under the plan of health insurance benefits provided pursuant to this part."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.